

NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 4, 2008

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County to collect holiday gifts for U.S. troops

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Department of Veterans Affairs will partner with the nonprofit group Yellow Ribbon of America this year to collect and distribute holiday gifts to local families of U.S. troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Board of Supervisors decided Tuesday.

“The brave men and women serving overseas in our nation’s military are focused on their mission, but they’re also concerned about how their families will fare at home during the Holiday Season,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane. “Our goal is to bring some extra cheer to these families so their loved ones in Iraq or Afghanistan can rest a little easier.”

The San Bernardino County Department of Veterans Affairs will coordinate the collections, and individual County department heads will work with their employees to collect items. The Department of Veterans Affairs is placing collection boxes at County fire stations and branch libraries. Suggested donations include pre-paid phone cards, gift cards and new, unwrapped toys.

Yellow Ribbon of America – www.yellowribbonamerica.org -- will collect the care packages and distribute them to families. The group has been providing holiday care packages to the troops and their families since 2004. Last year, San Bernardino County residents and employees donated about 50,000 items to send to troops serving overseas with the help of Yellow Ribbon.

While most items collected will be distributed to military families, the County will work with Touch of Home Support 4R Deployed Military – a Crestline-based nonprofit – to send any donated “comfort items” such as hygiene products, snacks, books, and magazines to local troops serving overseas.

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